DOCKET NO.: 4322/PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE PCT NATIONAL PHASE PATENT APPLICATION

OF: Wilhelm CLAESSEN et al.

USSN: TO BE ASSIGNED - NEW

FILED: March 18, 2002

FOR: Filter Press

INTERNATIONAL SERIAL NO.: PCT/DE00/02828 INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: August 18, 2000

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS BOX PCT WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

March 18, 2002

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO MINIMIZE THE FILING FEE

Dear Sir:

In order to minimize the filing fee, please amend the above identified patent application as follows before calculating the filing fee.

Referring to the Literal Translation of International Application PCT/DE00/02828

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 3 to 14.

Claims 1 and 2 are maintained for calculating the filing fee.

REMARKS:

After calculating the filing fee, please further enter the accompanying Second Preliminary Amendment which adds new claims 15 to 26 for examination.

WFF:ar/4322/PCT Encls.: postcard

USPS EXPRESS MAIL EV 059 670 734 US MARCH 18 2002 Respectfully submitted,

Wilhelm CLAESSEN et al.

Applicant

Walter F. Fasse Patent Attorney

Reg. No.: 36132

Tel. No.: (207) 862-4671 Fax. No.: (207) 862-4681

P. O. Box 726

Hampden, ME 04444-0726